

Dear Friends

During these past few days, I have been struggling somewhat. Maybe you have too?

Every day, it's becoming increasingly clear that our world desperately needs hope. Between a global pandemic, our recovering economy, and protests about racial injustice, life feels heavy at the moment.

Yes, there are signs that we might slowly emerge from Lockdown, and soon the Church we love will again be open for times of prayer, quiet and reflection. For me that brings a reminder that **you and I know that we have an unwavering hope available to us through Christ.**

*“When troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing” (James 1:2–4 NLT).*

Notice those final words—God uses your troubles to continue making you *perfect, complete, needing nothing* . . . what a promise! He is at work even in the darkest days.

No matter how challenging life gets, we always have access to the hope found in God's Word—and in the Word itself, Jesus Christ.

**When our faith is tested, God is near and he is working to make us perfect, complete, and needing nothing.**

So, consider it a new day for great joy—and walk in the hope you have in Christ!

I hope you will find encouragement in these promises from Holy Scripture.

I did! But I had to take time to “listen”!

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*  
MATTHEW 11:28 (NIV)

*“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”* ISAIAH 26:3 (ESV)

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” PROVERBS 3:5–6 (NLT)*

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7 (NLT)*

*“Don’t be afraid, for the Lord will go before you and will be with you; he will not fail nor forsake you. DEUTERONOMY 31:8 (TLB)*

*“The LORD is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.” PSALM 34:18 (GNT)*

*“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.” PSALM 34:19 (NIV)*

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” ISAIAH 40:31 (NIV)*

*“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV)*

*“Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders.” DEUTERONOMY 33:12 (NIV)*

*“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” JOSHUA 1:9 (NLT)*

*“I will lie down in peace and sleep, for though I am alone, O Lord, you will keep me safe.” PSALM 4:8 (TLB)*